

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In the Office Action mailed August 25, 2006, claims 1-25 are pending. Claims 23 and 24 are withdrawn from consideration, claims 1-11 are rejected, and claims 12-22 and 25 are allowed. Applicants have thoroughly reviewed the outstanding Office Action including the Examiner's remarks and the references cited therein. The following remarks are believed to be fully responsive to the Office Action.

CLAIM REJECTIONS – 35 U.S.C. §112

The Examiner rejected claims 1-11 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite. Applicants have amended independent claim 1 to clarify the subject matter of the invention as suggested by the Examiner. Claims 2-11 depend from independent claim 1. Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112 have been overcome and request that the rejection be withdrawn.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

The Examiner is thanked for the indication of allowable subject matter. Applicants have amended the claims according to the Examiner's request. Thus, claims 1-22 and 25 are in condition for allowance.

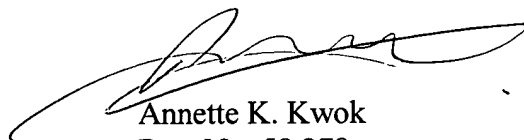
CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicants respectfully request that all the objections and rejections to the claims be removed and that the claims pass to allowance. If, for any reason, the Examiner disagrees, please call the undersigned attorney at 202-861-1683 in an effort to

resolve any matter still outstanding before issuing another action. The undersigned Attorney is confident that any issue which might remain can readily be worked out by telephone.

In the event this paper is not timely filed, Applicants petition for an appropriate extension of time. Please charge any fee deficiencies or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 50-2036 with reference to our Docket No. 87361.4040.

Respectfully submitted,
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